

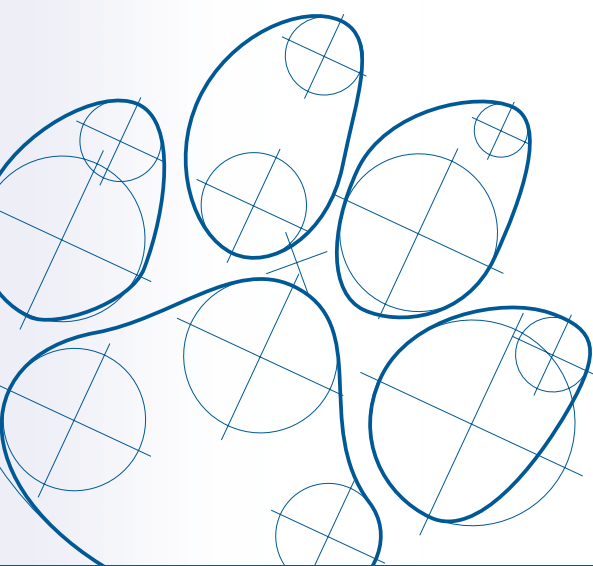
THE BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of the University of Kentucky Athletics Department

vol 3

Fall 2003

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The Wildcats on the Airwaves

It has been said that if a person is happy at work, he is happy in his life. If that is the case, then Tom Leach is one cheerful guy. Leach, the radio voice of the Wildcats, grew up in Paris, Ky., dreaming of following the footsteps of Cawood Ledford and Ralph Hacker.

At the age of 16, Leach began working toward that goal. He started at a station in his hometown of Paris, before attending UK, where he earned a journal-



Tom Leach

“ TOUCHDOWN KENTUCKY! grew out of the fact that the team was scoring a lot of touchdowns at the time ... and it was exciting. ”

— Tom Leach

ism degree. From there it was off to Mt. Sterling for a year before heading back to Lexington to continue his work on the radio. In 1989 Leach began working for the UK Network, hosting the halftime show for football and basketball games.

Then in 1997, Leach realized his goal as he was named the play-by-play announcer for the football games.

Five years later, he began calling the basketball games as well. For Leach, the job was and still is a dream-come-true.

"If it was possible for a job to exceed expectations, it has," Leach said. As a broadcaster, Leach has made his own impression on the Big

Blue Nation. His trademark, "TOUCHDOWN KENTUCKY!" calls have quickly become synonymous with football games.

"In football, my first year coincided with the explosion of Tim Couch," Leach said.

"(TOUCHDOWN KENTUCKY) grew out of the fact that the team was scoring a lot of touchdowns at the time ... and it was exciting."

Leach's most memorable moment as the Wildcats' play-by-play man was of the Alabama game in 1997. In basketball, although he has only been

at it for two years, Leach recalls the North Carolina game, where Tayshaun Prince made five three-pointers to open the game, as his favorite moment.

His favorite memories as a listener were a little harder for Leach to remember.

"There were just so many games if you grew up following the Wildcats," he said. "But I guess the last game that Cawood did always sticks in your memory."

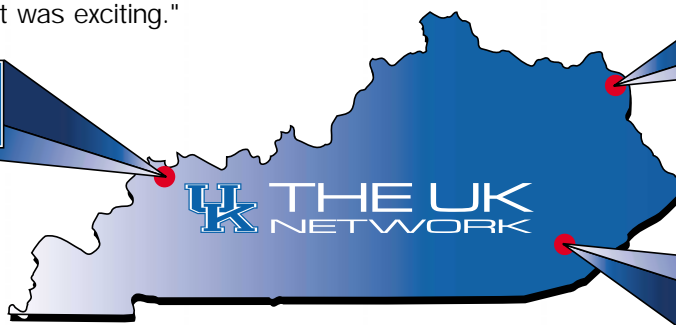
"In radio there is just an excitement," he explained. "You get to paint a picture for someone who can't see it anywhere else."

Tom Leach and his wife Robin have two children, 10-year-old Connor and 4-year-old Caroline.

WSN
860 AM
Henderson

WRVC
92.7 FM
Ashland

WYMT
Television
Hazard



Each issue highlights radio and TV stations on the network. For more info go to ukathletics.com

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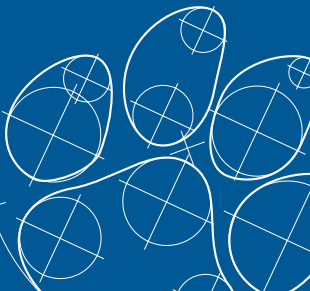
If you have any questions, suggestions or simply want to express your views about *The Blueprint*, please write to Rena Vicini, Assistant Athletics Director, at the address to the left, or send an e-mail to theblueprint@lsv.uky.edu. Please include your address, phone number and e-mail address.





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BARNYARD BLUE



The Carpenters of Russell Springs are the first "Barn Storming Cats".

Most people think of storing hay, produce or livestock when they think of barns. UK sports aficionados often think of something else.

Rupp had his "BARNyard Fiddlers". UK's graduating men's basketball players have an annual "BARNstorming tour." The most popular UK cheerleaders are the "BARNstable Twins."

Even UK's current AD is Mitch BARNhart.

Now, we are establishing a new BARN tradition, and you can help! We need high-traffic-area barns or silos on which to paint UK logos and "Go Big Blue!" The barn owner provides the barn. UK provides the rest.

Besides displaying Big Blue pride, the owner receives UK men's basketball game tickets and paraphernalia, recognition in The Blueprint, on ukathletics.com – and in

other university publications.

If you want to join the "Barn Storming Cats" program, send your name, phone number, e-mail address, barn location and barn picture to:

Kristen Branscum

UK Athletics/Marketing

Memorial Coliseum • Lexington, KY 40506

Krbran2@uky.edu

Scott County

Located at 3181 Newtown Road

Double Stink Hog Farm is a family-owned farm located on the corner of US 460 and KY 922. Owned by Julius, Tom and Howard Fister, the 200-acre farm specializes in reasonably priced top-quality produce.

Double Stink Hog Farm deals primarily in hogs, as well as cattle, corn,

soybeans and tobacco. As lore has it, young sons were asked to clean the hog barn before the monthly birth of piglets. One morning, youngsters Kenny and Thomas Jr. accepted the chore. At lunch, the lads were asked what they had been up to. Thomas replied, "Cleaning out a hog barn, and it really stinks!" After cleaning a second barn, Thomas heard the same question. He responded, "Cleaning out another hog barn. This farm doesn't just stink... it 'double stinks!'

Russell County

*Located on the Louie B. Nunn/
Cumberland Parkway*

Kamos and Garmoline Carpenter do not let their duties on a 500-acre Russell Springs farm of soybeans and cattle keep them away from UK football. Their 40-year streak as season ticket holders was threatened in 2001 when a heart condition weakened Kamos. Garmoline believed Kamos would never again attend a Cats game, because their seat location required his walking down 30 steps. But Kamos persevered with football as his motivation. He rehabilitated into game-day shape to navigate the steps.

On August 31, the work paid as Kamos, Garmoline, their son and daughter-in-law were honored on the field during the Louisville football game for participating in the "Barn Storming Cats" program.

Double Stink Farm in Georgetown has the only "Barn Storming" grain bin.

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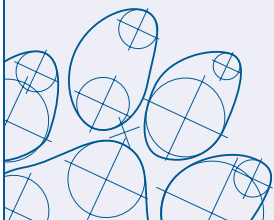
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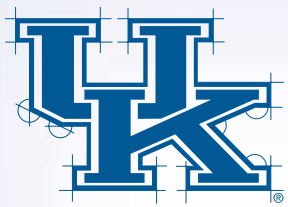
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Wildcat Profiles

David Freeman Junior, Cross Country

His All-American honors, coupled with his All-SEC selections in both cross country and track, make him indisputably among the best.



Two-time All-American David Freeman knows what it is like to be one of the elite. His All-American honors, coupled with his All-SEC selections in both cross country and track, make him indisputably among the best. Now Freeman is hoping to lead the UK Cross Coun-

try team to some elite honors of its own. With the UK men's team coming off an eighth-place team finish at the Southeastern Conference Championships a year ago, Freeman is going to have to step up even more for the Cats in 2003.

"David is one of three returning All-SEC cross country runners, with the others being Thomas Morgan and Hunter Spencer," Coach Don Weber said. "We need him, along with Thomas and Hunter, to have another



big race at the conference championships to give us the opportunity to compete with the top teams in the SEC."

Weber may have high hopes for Freeman, but expectations are nothing new to the UK junior. Last season, he led the UK squad with a 10th-place SEC individual finish, earning him All-SEC honors for the first time in cross country and advancing him to the NCAA Southeast Regional, where he placed 31st. The North Miami Beach, Fla. native also finished in the top 10 in four of six races last season.

"Last year was David's first year running cross country," Weber said. "And his great cross country season, highlighted with his All-SEC performance, was the origin of a great indoor and outdoor track season. All of his performances were among the very best in the nation.

We believe another successful cross country season will prepare him for another great run at track, culminating at the USA Olympic trials."

Freeman's accomplishments on the track didn't begin at UK, as they date all the way back to his days as the Florida State Class 4A 800-meter Champion. He currently holds school records in the outdoor 4 x 800 relay, indoor 800 meters, and the indoor distance medley relay team. In addition, he earned his second All-American honor by placing seventh in the mile run at the NCAA Indoor Championships last year.

Eva Gessner Senior, Women's Golf

"I am looking forward to playing well and leading this team; to helping everyone out with their game."

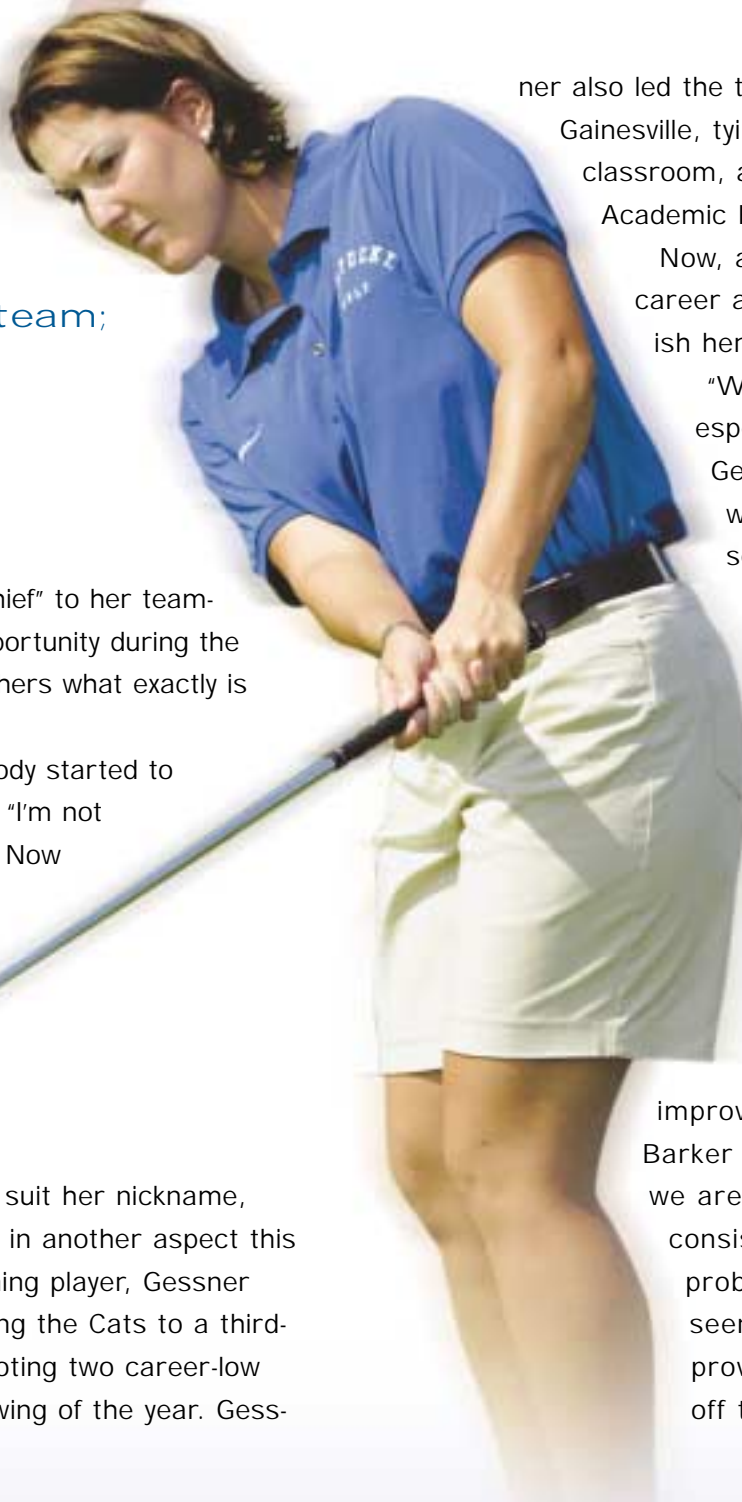


Eva Gessner, known as "chief" to her teammates, will have her first opportunity during the 2003-04 season to show others what exactly is behind the nickname.

"For some reason, everybody started to call me chief," Gessner said. "I'm not even really sure how I got it. Now everyone that meets me

thinks that I'm kind of like that -- like a chief. To some extent I am like that, but I'm not the kind of person who is going to boss anyone around."

While Gessner's laid-back personality may not suit her nickname, she certainly has the potential to fulfill the name in another aspect this year -- on the golf course. The team's top returning player, Gessner competed in every tournament a year ago, leading the Cats to a third-place finish in the Lady Kat Invitational after shooting two career-low rounds of 74 and placing sixth for her best showing of the year. Gess-



ner also led the team in the Lady Gator Invitational in Gainesville, tying for 26th and was impressive in the classroom, as she was named to the SEC Spring Academic Honor Roll.

Now, after dropping five strokes from her career average, she has the opportunity to finish her UK career as a leader and a mentor.

"We've got a lot of potential on this team, especially with the incoming freshmen," Gessner said. "We have a schedule that will give us an opportunity to prove ourselves. I am looking forward to playing well and leading this team; to helping everyone out with their game."

After the squad took a hit with the departure of two seniors last year, Gessner will be the sole leader of the team. And Coach Stephanie Martin Barker, who has been at the helm of the program the last two seasons, knows that there is no one else she would rather call "chief" both on and off the links.

"Eva is very athletic and has improved a lot since she arrived here," Barker said. "She is our team captain and we are counting on her contributions and consistency on the traveling squad. Eva is probably the hardest worker I have ever seen and will definitely be counted on to provide this team with leadership on and off the golf course."

Elizabeth Ramsey Senior, Women's Soccer

"Elizabeth offers more than just points and things of that nature. She is the model student-athlete."



Senior forward Elizabeth Ramsey is a standout among a stellar group of returnees for the 2003 UK women's soccer squad, which is currently in mid-season

and hopes for a third-straight NCAA bid when tournament play begins in November. The Hilliard, Ohio native was named first-team All-SEC in 2002 after returning from an ACL injury that sidelined her in 2001. She was also selected to the 2002 All-Great Lakes Region first team by the NSCAA and the second team by SoccerBuzz.com and was named to the 2002 SEC All-Tournament team. She is a two-time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll. Knee injuries notwithstanding (she

suffered an ACL injury while in high school), Ramsey has started every game at Kentucky.

Ramsey has already established herself among UK's all-time soccer greats. Coming into the current season, she was in sixth place on the UK all-time career goals list and four assists shy of tying Annie Gage's mark for career assists. She is third on the all-time points list.

One of the most decorated female student-athletes on campus, Ramsey is a legitimate candidate for SEC Player of the Year and All-America honors.

Off the pitch and in the community, Ramsey is a two-year participant in UK's Schoolhouse Rock program in which area elementary and middle school students visit Memorial Coliseum for a program arranged and performed by UK student-athletes.

UK Coach Warren Lipka applauds Ramsey's impact on the Kentucky women's soccer program.

"Elizabeth offers more than just points and things of that nature. She is the model of a hard-working student-athlete. She has come back from two knee injuries and she is playing her best soccer. She is one of the most dedicated student-athletes at Kentucky."



Bradley Wheeldon Senior, Rifle

"He's the crown jewel of our program, and he gets better every year," Kentucky Rifle Coach Harry Mullins said.



The marksmanship skills of UK's Bradley Wheeldon have landed him in a number of international shooting competitions, and he added another when he competed in the Pan

American Games in August in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Wheeldon captured the silver medal in the air rifle event, trailing the gold medalist from Argentina by only 1.1 points. Wheeldon became the first student-athlete with UK ties to medal in international competition since former UK rifle stand-out Nancy Johnson won a gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

"He's the crown jewel of our program, and he gets better every year," Kentucky Rifle Coach Harry Mullins said.

Wheeldon is a six-time NRA All-American, earning honors in both rifle

events, smallbore and air rifle, in each of his three years as a Wildcat.

Wheeldon owns the highest season averages in the history of the UK rifle program for both the smallbore and air rifle events.

In March, he took runner-up honors in smallbore and third place in air rifle at the NCAA Rifle Championships in West Point, N.Y.

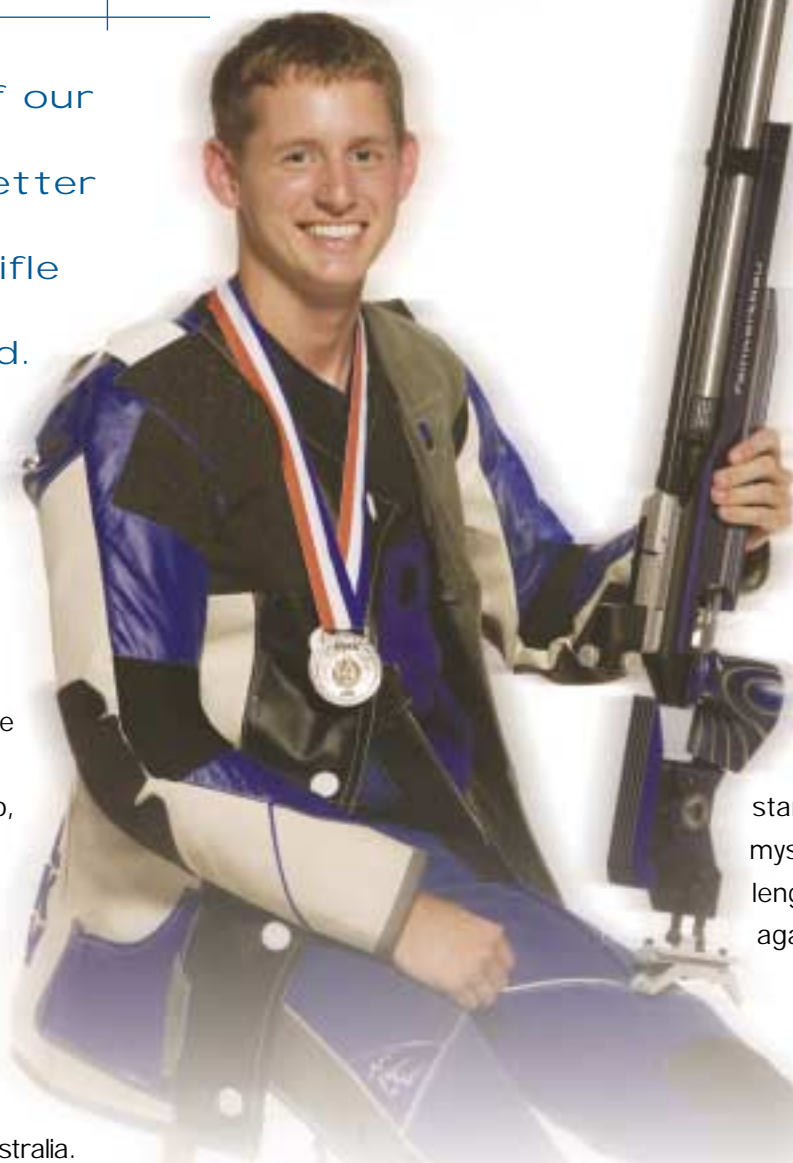
On the same day, Wheeldon was one of three student-athletes in collegiate rifle to be named to the USA Shooting National Development Team. After a tryout in Fort Benning, Ga., USA Shooting Coach David Johnson named Wheeldon to the USA Pan American Games team.

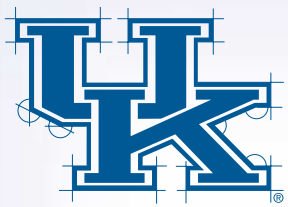
Wheeldon hopes to use the Pan American Games as a stepping stone in achieving his ultimate goal; the chance to represent the United States at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

"It's something I've wanted to do since I first started competing. I've just got to convince myself that I'm ready to take on the next challenge and represent the United States once again," Wheeldon said.

In the classroom, Wheeldon is on track to complete UK's five-year master's program in physical therapy. He was named to the College Rifle Coaches Association All-Academic Team in 2003.

Wheeldon, who attended Pulaski County High School, has become a hometown hero in Eubank, Ky., according to Mullins. And he could become a legend at UK as well, the coach says.





Coaches Profiles

Mr. Baseball

Kentucky Head Coach John Cohen

It is late August, the photograph sits somewhat unceremoniously on the floor, at about a three-foot diagonal from the front left corner of head UK baseball coach John Cohen's desk. Propped up against the wall on the long side of Cohen's rectangular-shaped office, the black and white image in the reddish brown frame is flanked on either side by ebony baseball bats with gold signatures.

In the photo, the Kentucky coach has on a cap and cleats. The coach is leaning forward, one foot on top of the bleachers, elbows resting on a knee. The coach is peering intently at something in the distance.

And the coach, by the way, is not John Cohen.

The coach is Bear Bryant. Naturally.

That the subject of the circa 1950 photo is Bryant and that the photo sits on the floor say quite a bit about the man sitting behind the desk in the white UK polo shirt.

Cohen admires Bryant; says he followed the Bear's "every move" as a boy growing up in Tuscaloosa, Ala. To admire Bryant—to put his picture in your office—is to admire toughness, directness, intensity. And winning.

And to have that picture resting on the carpet—though only temporarily—means that Cohen has a sense of urgency, a focus on what's important right now: baseball, action. (He'll find time for tacking up décor, even if it is a photo of his idol, later.)

Cohen describes himself and his coaching style as aggressive: "And sometimes when you're aggressive, you are going to run into walls—head first. But I expect our players to be aggressive in every area of their baseball, and we're going to teach that."

By looking and listening to him, you can be sure Cohen means what he says. He's in good physical condition, with a strong handshake, sturdy jaw; has sharp and steady eyes. And when he talks—especially about college baseball—he often swivels his chair slightly sideways at the precise moment that he changes his inflection to stress a particular word within a phrase.



"The goals I set for the team relate to what we can do to get better today," Cohen says, emphasizing the last word in the sentence as he swivels a little to the left. "And for the next day, how can we be better than the previous day? You can achieve a lot with that simple mentality."

Speaking of achievements, Cohen's got a whole bat bag full of them. As an athlete, his high school basketball team won 100 straight games; his college baseball squad at Mississippi State won the SEC title three of the four

"I've been blessed to be around some legendary coaches—a lot of winners."

— John Cohen

years he played; and professionally—as an outfielder in the Minnesota Twins farm system—his club won the league championship.

A noted hitting instructor in the college ranks, each team that Cohen has coached has set school records for run production, and each team has won regularly.

As an assistant, his University of Missouri club won its first conference crown in 14 years; his University of Florida team earned 46 victories in 2002. As a head coach, he led Northwestern (La.) State to two league titles in his four years.

"I've been blessed to be around some legendary coaches—a lot of winners," Cohen

explains. The UK head man goes on to say how proud he is of the staff that will help him pilot the Cats: Jan Weisberg, "an invaluable resource in moving the program forward"; Gary Henderson, "one of the best pitching minds in the country"; "great" volunteer coach Brad Bohannon; and "great" baseball operations director Phillip Sledge.

"We're all here to help our kids get better—as students, as players, as people; to leave no stone unturned."

And he knows he must lead by example because "teams take on the personality of their head coach."

Which, for UK baseball, should prove quite positive.

Additionally, he's a balanced family guy. Likes to watch movies with his wife of nine years, Nelle. He also likes to fish with his daughters Avery (6) and Jordan (8)—who like gymnastics and ballet...and baseball. And he likes where he is.

"I'm privileged to be in Lexington. The sense of community here is tremendous; that's special. With each athletic program at UK, if you prove you can win and give tremendous effort, the fans jump on board. And you can really build on that.

"Having coached at other schools like Florida, I can say to our players, 'Hey, it's not what you think; the grass isn't always greener at other places. In fact, you have tremendous advantages at UK that you wouldn't have there.' "

First-year gymnastics head coach Hajile Muhammad is one of the newest additions to the Kentucky family of coaches, but he is no stranger to UK Athletics. "Mo" ("Coach Mo" to the players) has long been a popular figure around Memorial Coliseum, having served for six seasons as an assistant on the legendary Leah Little's coaching staff, making a name for himself as a phenomenal coach and recruiter. Muhammad is nationally recognized by his peers and was named NCAA Regional Assistant Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2002. UK athletics director Mitch Barnhart acknowledged Muhammad's importance to the program by naming him Little's successor when she retired in June.

"Mo has been a part of the collegiate gymnastics community for many years and has earned the opportunity to become a head coach at an NCAA Division I program," Barnhart said. "His ability to recruit quality gymnasts to our program will hopefully allow us to continue to build upon the tradition that Leah Little started."

Muhammad came to Kentucky in 1997 after coaching at Gizi Gymnastics in Houston, Texas for nine years. The Chicago native had become acquainted with Coach Little several years before and helped her with summer gymnastics camps in the Bluegrass. When a position on her staff opened, Little called on Muhammad to fill the void.

"When searching for people to help the program, it's hard to find everything you want in one package," said Little. "But Mo has it all. I can't say enough about what he has brought to this program. He really looks after the kids and has a great heart for them, making sure they achieve in and out of the classroom."

Under Little's tutelage, Muhammad refined his recruiting skills and learned valuable lessons about coaching at the collegiate level.

"I was pretty good at dealing with upper-level gymnasts (at the club level) before coming here, and that's what made my transition a lot easier," Muhammad said. "But, I also learned that you really have to be willing to listen, and it's not just about gymnastics. You have to be a role model, counselor, and tutor among other personas to be successful."

Muhammad has an outgoing personality and disarming smile that make him uniquely welcome as a coach and a friend.

Helping Kentucky gymnastics reach a higher level of success is Muhammad's goal for the future of the program. The 2004 Wildcats return the nucleus from last year's team. Muhammad expects seniors Aronda Primault and Julie Joy as well as a solid junior class to provide leadership for the Wildcats this season. Primault received second team All-America honors in 2002 and Joy finished second on the team on the uneven bars last season with a 9.786 average.

Muhammad, who has 23 years of coaching experience, received guidance at the col-

legiate level from Little, but also spent a brief stint under the world renowned gymnastics legend, Bela Karolyi, while living in Texas.

"It was pretty intense and eye-opening," Muhammad said of his experience with the former Olympic coach. "It's an experience I don't regret because I learned a lot, but it wasn't the route I wanted to take as far as how I wanted to train athletes."

In addition to being an outstanding gymnastics coach, Muhammad has an outgoing personality and disarming smile that make him uniquely welcome as a coach and a friend.

UK assistant media relations director Mandy Polley says, "Mo is the type of coach that excites his athletes, not just in competition, but in life in general. He is absolutely one of the most positive people I have ever met and I thoroughly respect him - as a person, as a co-worker, as a coach and mostly as a friend. I look forward to seeing him thrive as the head coach at Kentucky."

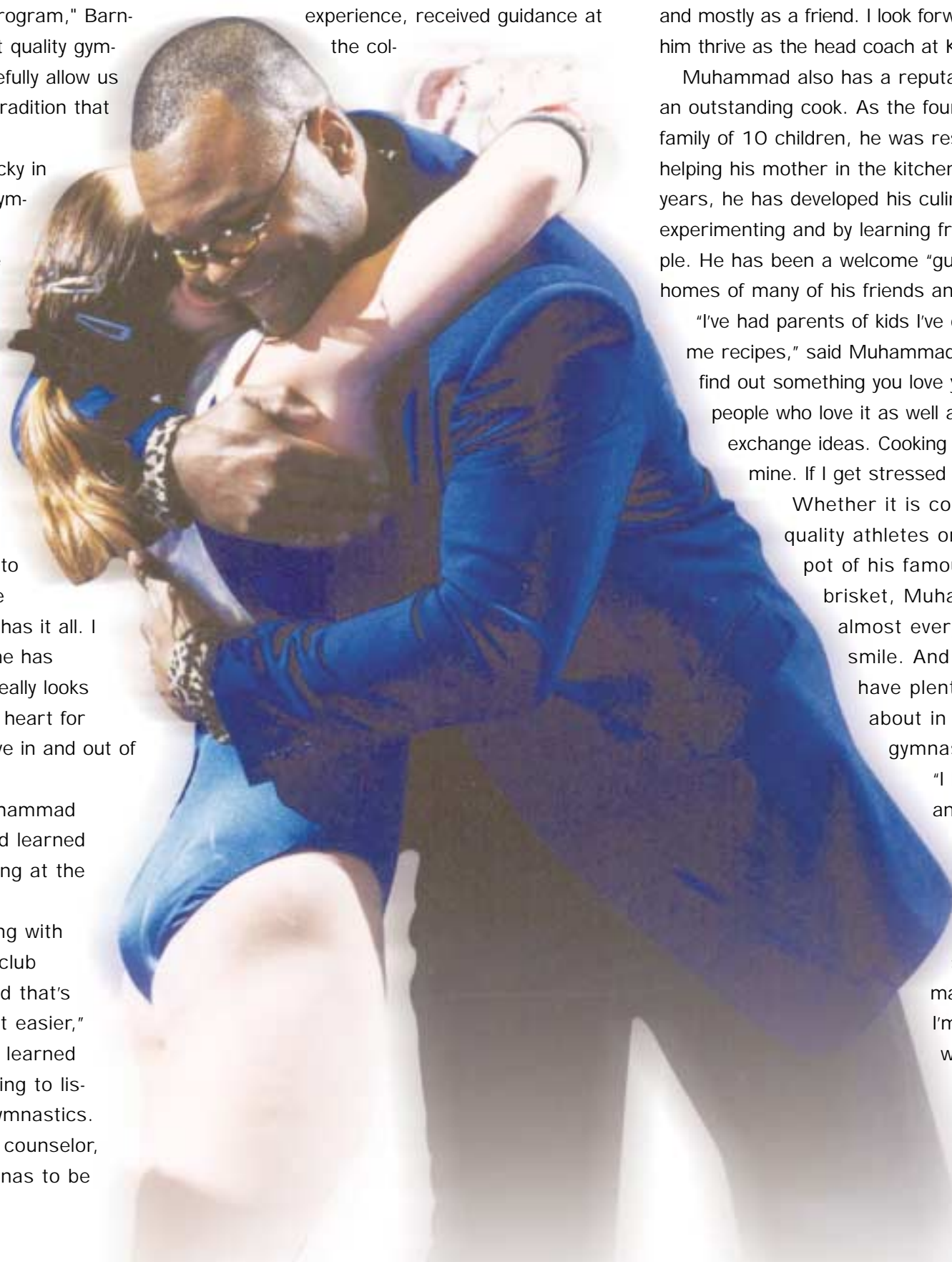
Muhammad also has a reputation for being an outstanding cook. As the fourth oldest in a family of 10 children, he was responsible for helping his mother in the kitchen. Over the years, he has developed his culinary skills by experimenting and by learning from other people. He has been a welcome "guest chef" in the homes of many of his friends and colleagues.

"I've had parents of kids I've coached give me recipes," said Muhammad. "Once you find out something you love you find other people who love it as well and you exchange ideas. Cooking is a love of mine. If I get stressed it soothes me."

Whether it is coaching top-quality athletes or cooking a pot of his famous beef brisket, Muhammad does almost everything with a smile. And he hopes to have plenty to smile about in the upcoming gymnastics season.

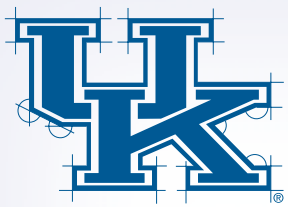
"I love college and I love learning and I love the academia part of college," says Muhammad. "In a sense, I'm in a perfect world."

And it's a world that "Mo" perfectly fits.



Head Over Heels

Kentucky Gymnastics Head Coach Mo Muhammad



New Faces



Lori visits
with suite
holder
Bill Morgan.

Lori Armstrong



Frankfort native Lori Armstrong joins the Kentucky staff as the Director of Hospitality and Athletics Relations. Lori oversees the corporate suites at Commonwealth Stadium and assists the K Fund office with special events planning.

Lori began catering part-time while working as a constituent caseworker for U.S. Senator Wendell Ford. After Ford's retirement in 1999, Lori began catering with a company that serviced PGA Tour Events, and then UK Catering. Most recently, she was with the Lexington Legends' organization as the Catering Sales Manager in charge of suites.

A lifetime UK fan, Lori remembers sitting on her grandmother's lap while listening to the Cats on the radio when she was a toddler. She is a 1996 graduate of Hanover College in Hanover, Ind.

Micheline Schott



A native of Shepherdsville, Micheline joined the UK staff this summer as the new Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing. Micheline assists in all phases of UK's marketing efforts, with special emphasis on women's basketball.

Micheline comes to UK after serving as Senior Marketing Manager for the Official College Sports Network (OCSN), which provides internet services for

universities and collegiate conferences. Micheline was named "Rookie of the Year" in 2001 as OCSN's top first-year employee.

A UK graduate with a degree in business management, Micheline earned her master's in sports management from the University of Georgia.

Scott Stricklin



Scott Stricklin was named Assistant A.D. for Media Relations in August and oversees the public relations efforts for the athletics department while serving as the primary contact for UK's men's basketball.

Scott comes to the Kentucky from Baylor University, where he served as Assistant Athletics Director for Communications and Marketing.

A Jackson, Miss. native, Scott graduated from Mississippi State in 1992. His parents, David and Eula, were born, raised and married in Paintsville, where they attended Paintsville High School. Scott and his wife Anne (the youngest daughter of 1997 Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Bailey Howell) have a two-year-old daughter, Abigail, and are expecting their second child this fall.



Corporate Partner Highlight



Mitch Barnhart and Fifth Third President Sam Barnes.



Fifth Third Bank
Working Hard To Be The Only Bank You'll Ever Need.



Dear Wildcat Fans,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of UK Athletics. With the many recent changes to our priority seating programs at Commonwealth Stadium and Rupp Arena, your understanding and support in this transitional time is greatly appreciated. The rising costs of scholarships, facility maintenance and academic support means that your assistance, which directly benefits the lives of each student-athlete, is more important than ever. As a support team to athletics, the K Fund staff maintains its focus to give each student-athlete within our program the best opportunity to learn, grow and compete on a national level. Without our K Fund donors, our goal of providing each student-athlete with a special experience would be impossible.

Again, we would like to thank you for your continued support and encourage any of you who have questions concerning the changes -- or would like more information on the K Fund -- to please contact us @ (859) 257-8000.

*Thanks,
Go Cats*



2003 Football Fans' Day



Commonwealth Celebration!

Largest Crowd Ever Attends Wildcats Fans' Day

Nearly 5,000 fans attended the 2003 Football Fans' Day in Commonwealth Stadium. The first 2,000 fans who entered the stadium received free hot dogs, Pepsi and autograph books. But no one felt slighted. Fans' Day's first-ever fireworks show lasted 12 minutes and featured more than 3,600 blasts from fireworks that came from the U.S., Canada, Spain and France. Wildcat Refuge (see page 11) was also featured for the first time at Fan Day.

